

Draft Utility Vegetation Management Ordinance Key Provisions (4/30/13):

Purpose and Intent – Ordinance is designed to regulate vegetative maintenance activities (tree pruning and removals) of utility companies within City limits and to encourage the promotion of urban tree canopy on public and private property

Appeals Process – Ordinance includes an appeals process for private property owners. In all cases, appeals may be made regarding tree removals and the City's Urban Forester will serve as the primary appeal review agent

Violations – Ordinance allows City's Urban Forester to issue a stop work orders for any violation of the ordinance provisions

Proper Pruning Practices Required - Ordinance requires utility companies to follow-up proper tree pruning and removal practices and techniques. These provisions have been verified to be industry standards by our City's Urban Forester and work team subject matter experts

Supervision and Oversight of Contractors Required – Ordinance requires utility companies to provide proper oversight of its work force and all contractors. Further, requires that each plan have an identified certified arborist to be involved in the oversight of work crews

Clean-up – Ordinance codifies work team recommendations for public and private property clean-up of debris, large wood, and stump grinding

Work Planning and Communications – Ordinance codifies work team recommendations. Annual plan, operational plan (60 days in advance of work), community notification (45 days in advance of work), community meeting (30 days in advance of work), meeting with property owners (at least 7 days prior to work). In addition, requires annual coordination meeting between City and utility to review and seek efforts to improve planning and communications on an on-going basis

Other Associated Key Items:

Implementation of New Urban Trimming Standard – Duke Energy has developed and filed a new urban trimming standard with the NC Utilities Commission. This new standard can be used in the vegetative management of 4Kv and 12Kv distribution lines. Primary application in Greensboro will be in older neighborhoods.

Tree Canopy Management and Replanting Program Development – On April 4th, the Tree Ordinance Review Committee adopted work team recommendations for full Council consideration. Will involve the conduct of a tree canopy study, development of a tree inventory, and systematic public/private sponsored replanting program